

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1793

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7802

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 2-4 BLUESKY EXERCISE

REF: US/ROC EXERCISE SCHEDULE DATED AUGUST 23, 1976,
SENT TO DEPARTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

1. TDC HAS JUST INFORMED EMBASSY THAT BLUESKY COMBINED
ROC/US AIR DEFENSE EXERCISE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED PER
REFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 4, 1976 HAS
BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2-4. OTHERWISE, THE EXERCISE
WILL FOLLOW THE OUTLINE PROVIDED IN REFERENCE SCHEDULE.

2. DECEMBER BLUESKY WILL INCORPORATE SOME ASPECTS OF
EAGLE AND LARK EXERCISES AND WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO GIVE THE
ROC AND US FORCES ELECTRONIC COUNTER-MEASURES AND
RECONNAISSANCE TRAINING.

3. THE EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE TAIWAN AIR
DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION ZONE (TADIZ), EAST AND SOUTH OF A
LINE AT LEAST 50 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE PRC.

4. PARTICIPATING US FORCES WILL INCLUDE UNITS FROM AIR
WING EMBARKED ON THE USS MIDWAY, TWO OR THREE ACCOMPANY-
ING TASK GROUP SHIPS, AND FIVE ADDITIONAL USAF AIRCRAFT.
ROC F-5, F-100, AND F-104 AIRCRAFT, AIR DEFENSE UNITS,
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AND ONE OR TWO RADAR PICKET SHIPS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.

5. SOME OF THE US AIRCRAFT SIMULATING ATTACKS ON TAIWAN DURING THE EXERCISE WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM THE USS MIDWAY, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE TADIZ IN THE VICINITY OF 20-30 DEGREES N, 120-00 DEGREES E, APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES SSW OF TAIWAN. THE MIDWAY ITSELF WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN OHE EXERCISE.

6.PAO WILL RESPOND TO ANY PRESS QUERY ABOUT THE EXERCISE WITH QUOTE: WE DO NOT COMMENT ON ANY MILITARY EXERCISE UNQUOTE.
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